

**OPINION  
58-94**

February 7, 1958            (OPINION)

EDUCATION

RE: Student Loans - Yearly Limitation

We have received your letter dated February 5, 1958, with reference to the above statute.

A certain applicant for a student loan has made application for more than \$500.00 in one calendar year on the theory that when the law refers to one year it means one school year and thus a student attending summer school as well as the regular nine-month school term may be entitled to a loan in excess of \$500.00 in any one calendar year.

Section 2 of Chapter 150 of the 1957 Session Laws reads as follows:

The sum of not to exceed five hundred dollars in any one year, shall be made available to students who are residents of the state of North Dakota and graduated from a North Dakota high school who shall be selected by the board and who desire to attend the state university, the state agricultural college, any state normal school or teacher's college, or any state trade school or junior college, or other institution of higher learning in the state of North Dakota, and who are unable to attend such institution, school or college, without such financial assistance."

We believe when the Legislature refers to a year it must be interpreted in its usual sense which would be full twelve calendar months. Had the Legislature intended this to mean a nine-month school term it would have so provided.

It is therefore, our opinion that for loan purposes under Chapter 150 of the 1957 Session Laws no applicant is entitled to loan in an amount greater than \$500.00 in any one calendar year.

LESLIE R. BURGUM

Attorney General